

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 161

**Introduced by Assembly Members ~~Conway and Logue~~ Logue, Hall,
and Perea**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Campos, Chesbro, Conway,
Gray, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Maienschein, Medina,
Mullin, Quirk-Silva, V. Manuel Pérez, and Waldron)**

June 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161—Relative to ~~horse racing~~.
California Chrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 161, as amended, ~~Conway Logue~~. ~~Horse racing: California
Chrome. California Chrome: thoroughbred horse racing.~~

This measure would recognize the outstanding performance of California Chrome during his remarkable run for thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, would recognize and congratulate the many Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to his success, and would recognize the storied history of thoroughbred horse racing in California, the Cal-bred Program, and its contributions to job creation and the state's economy.

~~This measure would recognize the performance of California Chrome during his run for horse racing's Triple Crown, including his victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, would recognize and congratulate the many Californians who are part of his ownership group, breeding and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the~~

success of California Chrome, and would recognize the history of horse racing in California and its contributions to job creation and the state's economy.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 *WHEREAS, California has a long and proud thoroughbred*
2 *racing history, dating back some 160 years. In particular, the*
3 *Central Valley has been the birthplace of champions since the*
4 *1880s. California Chrome, born and raised at Harris Farms in*
5 *Coalinga, continues that tradition and has become an outstanding*
6 *representative of his namesake state; and*

7 *WHEREAS, California horse racing today accounts for an*
8 *estimated 50,000 jobs, 148,000 thoroughbred horses, and a \$2.5*
9 *billion impact on the state's economy. Combining athleticism,*
10 *grace, beauty, and speed, this sport reaches millions of fans*
11 *worldwide and carries priceless positive impressions of what*
12 *California has to offer; and*

13 *WHEREAS, The Kentucky Derby is the world's most famous*
14 *horse race and part of the celebrated Triple Crown of*
15 *thoroughbred horse racing for three-year-old horses only. Along*
16 *with the Preakness and Belmont Stakes, these three classics are*
17 *the races that horse owners, breeders, trainers, and jockeys all*
18 *dream of winning; and*

19 *WHEREAS, This spring, California Chrome won the 140th*
20 *Kentucky Derby and 139th Preakness Stakes, the first time a*
21 *California-bred colt swept the first two legs of the Triple Crown.*
22 *Both victories ended lengthy droughts for the state's racing*
23 *industry. California Chrome became the fourth California-born*
24 *Derby winner and first since 1962 and California's fifth Preakness*
25 *winner and first since 1986; and*

26 *WHEREAS, It takes a very special horse to reach national*
27 *prominence by winning multiple races at multiple tracks across*
28 *the country. In his career so far, California Chrome has won races*
29 *at California's Hollywood Park, Del Mar, and Santa Anita Park,*
30 *in addition to Kentucky's Churchill Downs and Maryland's Pimlico*
31 *Race Course at distances from 4 ¹/₂ furlongs to 1 ¹/₄ miles; and*

32 *WHEREAS, Among California Chrome's eight career victories*
33 *there was a six-stakes win streak featuring such milestones as the*
34 *King Glorious Stakes, the final stakes event held at Hollywood*

1 *Park, and the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby as well as the Kentucky*
2 *Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and*

3 *WHEREAS, California Chrome, a chestnut-colored horse as*
4 *golden as his home state, transcended thoroughbred horse racing*
5 *to become an international phenomenon not just with his brilliant*
6 *speed and winning ways, but due to his heart-warming story and*
7 *the people who make up his team; and*

8 *WHEREAS, California is a state where people are unafraid to*
9 *dream big and that's in part what inspired four fans to cross over*
10 *into horse ownership and become first-time breeders. An*
11 *inspiration to the "little guys" everywhere, Perry and Denise*
12 *Martin of Yuba City and Steve and Carolyn Coburn of Topaz Lake,*
13 *Nevada, became partners in a mare, Love the Chase, who they*
14 *bought from a syndicate for \$8,000. After someone scoffed at their*
15 *perceived foolishness, the couples named their new venture "Dumb*
16 *Ass Partners (D.A.P.) Racing"; and*

17 *WHEREAS, The partners sent their lone mare to Harris Farms*
18 *to be bred and chose the stallion Lucky Pulpit, owned by Mr. and*
19 *Mrs. Larry Williams. California Chrome is Love the Chase's first*
20 *foal. Before the colt was born, Steve Coburn vividly dreamed about*
21 *the big chestnut colt with four white legs and distinctive blaze and*
22 *felt sure the newborn was destined for greatness; and*

23 *WHEREAS, After a difficult birth, the mare was nursed back to*
24 *health by the excellent and attentive veterinary staff at Harris*
25 *Farms. This hands-on care also imprinted a love for people on*
26 *her intelligent and precocious son nicknamed "Junior."*
27 *Developing his mind and body, California Chrome spent his first*
28 *two years at Harris Farms, where he was groomed to be a*
29 *racehorse; and*

30 *WHEREAS, When it came time to start racing, the partners sent*
31 *their only racehorse to trainer Art Sherman with the proclamation*
32 *that this was "his Derby horse" and a suggested road map of races*
33 *to qualify. Sherman's prior Derby experience was as the exercise*
34 *rider for California-bred 1955 Kentucky Derby winner Swaps.*
35 *Coincidentally, California Chrome is Swaps'*
36 *great-great-great-great grandson; and*

37 *WHEREAS, California Chrome, as he prepared for the Triple*
38 *Crown trail, gained his foundation and experience in the lucrative*
39 *Golden State Series for Cal-bred horses, confirming the value and*
40 *significance of the state's breeding program; and*

1 WHEREAS, Art Sherman, at 77 years of age, became the oldest
2 trainer to win the Kentucky Derby. California Chrome also became
3 the first Derby and Preakness winner trained at Los Alamitos Race
4 Course in Cypress, California; and

5 WHEREAS, Success is the result of teamwork and California
6 Chrome's campaign is no exception. Jockey Victor Espinoza guided
7 the colt to those six straight stakes wins. Assistant trainer Alan
8 Sherman served as his father's right-hand man and accompanied
9 their Triple Crown candidate for six weeks on the road; and

10 WHEREAS, Groom Raul Rodriguez became California Chrome's
11 constant companion, attending to his every need. Exercise rider
12 Willie Delgado made sure the colt paid attention to his morning
13 lessons; and

14 WHEREAS, California Chrome's Triple Crown bid fell short
15 when he injured a hoof at the start of the 146th Belmont Stakes,
16 yet valiantly finished tied for fourth only $1\frac{3}{4}$ lengths from victory.
17 That loss did not diminish his amazing accomplishments; and

18 WHEREAS, In any sport, it takes an extraordinary athlete to
19 become a household name. California Chrome joined a short list
20 of such equine superstars as Seabiscuit and Secretariat with
21 cross-over appeal and the ability to make new fans as evidenced
22 by his thousands of "Chromies"; and

23 WHEREAS, California Chrome became, as Art Sherman said,
24 a "California rock star" and the latest example that California
25 dreams can come true; and

26 WHEREAS, California Chrome's grit, determination, and heart
27 carried him far beyond this state; it made California Chrome
28 "America's horse"; now, therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
30 CALIFORNIA, THE SENATE THEREOF CONCURRING, That
31 the Legislature recognizes the outstanding performance of
32 California Chrome during his remarkable run for thoroughbred
33 horse racing's Triple Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous
34 victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and be
35 it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Legislature recognizes and congratulates
37 the many Californians who are part of the ownership group,
38 breeding and training cadre, and other essential elements that led
39 to the success of California Chrome; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, *That the Legislature recognizes the storied history*
2 *of thoroughbred horse racing in California, the Cal-bred Program,*
3 *and its important contributions to job creation and the state's*
4 *economy that result from a vibrant California thoroughbred horse*
5 *racing industry; and be it further*

6 RESOLVED, *That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit*
7 *copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*

8 WHEREAS, Few California-bred horses may claim to winning
9 any one of the Triple Crown races — the Kentucky Derby, the
10 Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes — as 1,800 foals are born
11 in California compared to 20,000 foals in Kentucky; and

12 WHEREAS, Four “California-bred” horses, including a horse
13 named California Chrome, may boast a Kentucky Derby win, and
14 no California horse has won the Triple Crown; and

15 WHEREAS, California Chrome’s upbringing is a story that
16 embodies the very best of California’s horse racing traditions and
17 landscape as he was foaled in the horse breeding division of Harris
18 Ranch, the state’s largest beef producer; and

19 WHEREAS, California Chrome’s mother, Love the Chase, was
20 an unfortunate racing filly purchased by Steve Coburn of Topaz
21 Lake, Nevada and Perry Martin of Yuba City, who together own
22 Martin Testing Laboratories located at the McClellan Business
23 Park in Sacramento; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Coburn and Mr. Martin purchased Love the
25 Chase outright for a paltry sum of \$8,000, a transaction that
26 prompted someone to say that “only a fool would buy Love the
27 Chase,” and, as such, Mr. Coburn and Mr. Perry formed a company
28 aptly named Dumb Ass Partners, or DAP; and

29 WHEREAS, DAP retired Love the Chase in 2009, bred her with
30 the equally unimpressive Lucky Pulpit, and together the two horses
31 sired California Chrome, who was born in 2011 with four white
32 stockings and a white stripe down his face, features that horse
33 aficionados call “chrome”; and

34 WHEREAS, California Chrome bears many unique
35 characteristics, including him appearing to deliberately stop and
36 pose for cameras as he hears them clicking while walking in the
37 stable area, which prompted his exercise rider, Willie Delgado, to
38 give him an additional nickname, “Vogue”; and

39 WHEREAS, Another unusual characteristic is that California
40 Chrome refuses to walk forward out of horse vans when the

1 transport vehicle is designed for a forward exit, preferring to back
2 out instead; and

3 WHEREAS, As a two-year-old, California Chrome raced several
4 times at Los Angeles' Hollywood Park, San Diego's Del Mar
5 Racetrack, and Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, where he won some
6 races and finished sixth in others; and

7 WHEREAS, Jockey Victor Espinoza and California Chrome
8 had been unstoppable together, with a six-race winning streak that
9 included the Golden State Juvenile Stakes, California Cup Derby,
10 the San Felipe Stakes, and the Santa Anita Derby; and

11 WHEREAS, The pair dazzled fans during this year's Kentucky
12 Derby and Preakness Stakes, where California Chrome won by 1
13 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, respectively; and

14 WHEREAS, California Chrome gained nationwide appeal, but
15 the core of his fan base was centered in the Central Valley of
16 California, where the Sacramento television market ranked sixth
17 in the nation for television viewership for the Preakness Stakes,
18 and third in the nation for the Belmont Stakes; and

19 WHEREAS, Local followers of California Chrome in the Central
20 Valley, also called "Chromies," liked that purple was a color on
21 the horse's racing silks, similar to the team colors of the
22 Sacramento Kings; and

23 WHEREAS, Eleven horses entered the Belmont Stakes, and
24 California Chrome drew post position number two, the same post
25 position of former Triple Crown winner Secretariat in the 1973
26 Belmont; and

27 WHEREAS, Out of the gates, California Chrome was stepped
28 on by the horse next to him, tearing off a "chunk" of his hoof, yet
29 despite this most unfortunate occurrence, California Chrome
30 finished in a dead heat for fourth with Wicked Strong; and

31 WHEREAS, As a result of his unique pedigree and remarkable
32 racing accomplishments, California Chrome has been dubbed
33 "America's Horse," has earned over \$3.4 million in earnings, and
34 has tremendously benefited the state's \$34 billion horse racing
35 industry; now, therefore be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding
38 performance of California Chrome during his remarkable run for
39 horse racing's Triple Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous

1 victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and be
2 it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and congratulates the
4 many Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding
5 and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the
6 success of California Chrome; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the storied history of
8 horse racing in California, and horse racing's important
9 contributions to job creation and the state's economy that result
10 from a vibrant California horse racing industry; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.